

## PRE

Princes must, by a vigorous exercise of that law, make it every man's interest and honour to cultivate religion and virtue, by rendering vice a disgrace, and the certain ruin to *pre-ferment* or pretensions. *Swift.*

2. A place of honour or profit.  
All *preferments* should be placed upon fit men. *L'Estrange.*

3. Preference; act of preferring. Not in use.  
All which declare a natural *preference* of the one unto the motion before the other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

**PREFERRER.** [from *prefer*.] One who prefers.  
**TO PREFIGURATE.** *v. a.* [*præ* and *figure*, Lat.] To shew by an antecedent representation.

**PREFIGURATION.** *n. f.* [from *præfigurare*.] Antecedent representation.

The same providence that hath wrought the one, will work the other; the former being pledges, as well as *præfigurations* of the latter. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

The variety of prophecies and *præfigurations* had their punctual accomplishment in the author of this institution. *Norris.*

**TO PREFIGURE.** *v. a.* [*præ* and *figure*, Lat.] To exhibit by antecedent representation.

What the Old Testament hath, the very same the New containeth; but that which lieth there, as under a shadow, is here brought forth into the open sun; things there *præfigured*, are here performed. *Hooker.*

Such piety, so chaste use of God's day,  
That what we turn to feast, the turn'd to pray,  
And did *præfigure* here in devout taste,  
The rest of her high sabbath, which shall last. *Donne.*

If shame superadded to loss, and both met together, as the sinners portion here, perfectly *præfiguring* the two saddest ingredients in hell, deprivation of the blissful vision, and confusion of face, cannot prove efficacious to the mortifying of vice, the church doth give over the patient. *Hammond.*

**TO PREFIGURE.** *v. a.* [*præfigurare*, Fr. *præfigurare*, Lat.] To limit beforehand.

He, in his immoderate desires, *præfigured* unto himself three years, which the great monarchs of Rome could not perform in so many hundreds. *Knolles's Hist. of the Turks.*

**TO PREFIX.** *v. a.* [*præfixe*, Lat.]

1. To appoint beforehand.  
At the *præfix'd* hour of her awaking,  
Came I to take her from her kindred's vault. *Shakefp.*

A time *præfix*, and think of me at last!  
Its inundation constantly increaseth the seventh day of June;  
wherein a larger form of speech were safer, than that which punctually *præfixeth* a constant day. *Brown.*

Booth's forward valour only serv'd to show,  
He durst that duty pay we all did owe:  
Th' attempt was fair; but heav'n's *præfix'd* hour  
Not come. *Dryden.*

2. To settle; to establish.  
Because I would *præfix* some certain boundary between them,  
the old statutes end with king Edward II. the new or later  
statutes begin with king Edward III. *Hale's Law of England.*

These boundaries of species are as men, and not as nature  
makes them, if there are in nature any such *præfix'd*  
bounds. *Locke.*

3. To put before another thing; as, *be præfix'd an advertisement*  
to his book.

**PREFIX.** *n. f.* [*præfixum*, Lat.] Some particle put before a  
word, to vary its signification.

In the Hebrew language the noun has its *præfixa* and affixa,  
the former to signify some few relations, and the latter to de-  
note the pronouns possessive and relative. *Clarke.*

It is a *præfix* of augmentation to many words in that lan-  
guage. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

**PREFIXION.** *n. f.* [*præfixion*, Fr. from *præfix*.] The act of  
prefixing. *Diët.*

**TO PREFORM.** *v. a.* [*præ* and *form*.] To form beforehand.

If you consider the true cause,  
Why all these things change, from their ordinance,  
Their natures and *præform'd* faculties,  
To monstrous quality; why you shall find,  
That heav'n made them instruments of fear  
Unto some monstrous state. *Shakefp. Julius Cæsar.*

**PREGNANCY.** *n. f.* [from *pregnant*.]

1. The state of being with young.  
The breast is encompassed with ribs, and the belly left free,  
for respiration; and in females, for that extraordinary exten-  
sion in the time of their *pregnancy*. *Roy on the Creation.*

2. Fertility; fruitfulness; inventive power; acuteness.  
Pregnancy is made a tapster, and hath his quick wit wasted  
in giving reckonings. *Shakefpere's Henry IV.*

This writer, out of the *pregnancy* of his invention, hath  
found out an old way of insinuating the grossest reflections  
under the appearance of admonitions. *Swift's Miscel.*

**PREGNANT.** *adj.* [*pregnans*, Fr. *pregnant*, Lat.]

1. Teeming; breeding.

Thou  
Dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast abyss,  
And mad'st it *pregnant*. *Milton.*

His town, as fame reports, was built of old  
By Danae, *pregnant* with almighty gold. *Dryden.*

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Through either ocean, foolish man!  
That *pregnant* word sent forth again,  
Might to a world extend each atom there,  
For every drop call forth a sea, a heav'n for ev'ry star. *Pri.*

2. Fruitful; fertile; impregnating.  
All these in their *pregnant* causes mixt: *Milton.*

Call the floods from high, to rush amain  
With *pregnant* streams, to swell the teeming grain. *Dryden.*

3. Full of consequence.  
These knew not the just motives and *pregnant* grounds,  
with which I thought myself furnished. *King Charles.*

An egregious and *pregnant* instance how far virtue surpasses  
ingenuity. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

O detestable, passive obedience! did I ever imagine I  
should become thy votary in so *pregnant* an instance. *Arb.*

4. Evident; plain; clear; full. An obsolete sense.  
This granted, as it is a most *pregnant* and unforc'd position,  
who stands so eminent in the degree of this fortune as Calisto?  
a knave very voluble. *Shakefp. Othello.*

Were't not that we stand up against them all,  
'Twere *pregnant*, they should square between themselves. *Shakefp. Antony and Cleopatra.*

5. Easy to produce any thing.  
A most poor man made tame to fortune's blows,  
Who by the art of known and feeling sorrows,  
Am *pregnant* to good pity. *Shakefp. King Lear.*

6. Free; kind. Obsolete.  
My matter hath no voice, but to your own most *pregnant*  
and vouchsafed ear. *Shakefpere.*

**PREGNANTLY.** *adv.* [from *pregnant*.]

1. Fruitfully.  
A thousand moral paintings I can shew,  
That shall demonstrate these quick blows of fortune  
More *pregnantly* than words. *Shakefp. Timon of Athens.*

The dignity of this office among the Jews is to *pregnantly*  
set forth in holy writ, that it is unquestionable; kings and  
priests are mentioned together. *South's Sermon.*

**PREGUSTATION.** *n. f.* [*præ* and *gusto*, Lat.] The act of  
tasting before another.

**TO PREJUDGE.** *v. a.* [*prejuge*, Fr. *præ* and *judice*, Lat.] To  
determine any question beforehand; generally to condemn  
beforehand.

If he stood upon his own title of the house of Lancaster,  
he knew it was condemn'd in parliament, and *prejudged* in  
the common opinion of the realm, and that it tended to the  
dishonour of the line of York. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

The child was strong and able, though born in the eighth  
month, which the physicians do *prejudge*. *Bacon.*

The committee of council hath *prejudged* the whole case,  
by calling the united sense of both houses of parliament an  
universal clamour. *Swift.*

Some action ought to be entered, lest a greater cause should  
be injured and *prejudged* thereby. *Ayliffe.*

**TO PREJUDICATE.** *v. a.* [*præ* and *judicio*, Lat.] To de-  
termine beforehand to disadvantage.

Our dearest friend  
*Prejudicates* the business, and would seem  
To have us make denial. *Shakefpere.*

Are you, in favour of his person, bent  
Thus to *prejudicate* the innocent? *Sandys.*

**PREJUDICATE.** *adj.* [from the verb.]

1. Formed by prejudice; formed before examination.  
This rule of casting away all our former *prejudicate* opi-  
nions, is not propo'd to any of us to be practis'd at once as  
subjects or christians, but merely as philosophers. *Watts.*

2. Prejudiced; prepossessed.  
Their works will be embraced by most that understand  
them, and their reasons enforce belief from *prejudicate*  
readers. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

**PREJUDICATION.** *n. f.* [from *prejudicate*.] The act of judg-  
ing beforehand.

**PREJUDICE.** *n. f.* [*prejudice*, Fr. *prejudicium*, Lat.]

1. Prepossession; judgment formed beforehand without exami-  
nation. It is used for prepossession in favour of any thing or  
against it. It is sometimes used with to before that which the  
*prejudice* is against, but not properly.

The king himself frequently considered more the person  
who spoke, as he was in his *prejudice*, than the counsel itself  
that was given. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

My comfort is, that their manifest *prejudice* to my cause  
will render their judgment of less authority. *Dryden.*

There is an unaccountable *prejudice* to projectors of all  
kinds, for which reason, when I talk of practising to fly,  
silly people think me an owl for my pains. *Addison.*

2. Mischief; detriment; hurt; injury. This sense is only ac-  
cidental or consequential; a *bad thing* being called a *prejudice*,  
only because *prejudice* is commonly a *bad thing*, and is not de-  
rived from the original or etymology of the word: it were  
therefore better to use it less; perhaps *prejudice* ought never  
to be applied to any mischief, which does not imply some  
partiality or prepossession. In some of the following examples  
its impropriety will be discovered. *I have*

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I have not spake one the least word,  
That might be *prejudice* of her present state,  
Or touch of her good person. *Shakefp. Henry VIII.*

England and France might, through their amity,  
Breed him some *prejudice*; for from this league  
Peep'd harms that menac'd him. *Shakefp. Henry VIII.*

Factions carried too high and too violently, is a sign of  
weakness in princes, and much to the *prejudice* of their au-  
thority and business. *Bacon.*

How plain this abuse is, and what *prejudice* it does to the  
understanding of the sacred scriptures. *Locke.*

A prince of this character will instruct us by his example,  
to fix the unsteadiness of our politics; or by his conduct  
hinder it from doing us any *prejudice*. *Addison.*

**TO PREJUDICE.** *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To prepossess with unexamined opinions; to fill with pre-  
judices.

Half-pillars wanted their expected height,  
And roofs imperfect *prejudic'd* the sight. *Prior.*

Suffer not any beloved study to *prejudice* your mind, so far  
as to despise all other learning. *Watts.*

No flames to captivate the mind he spreads,  
Nor bribes your eyes to *prejudice* your heads. *Anonym.*

2. To obstruct or injure by prejudices previously raised.  
Companies of learned men, be they never so great and re-  
verend, are to yield unto reason; the weight whereof is no  
whit *prejudiced* by the simplicity of his person, which doth  
allege it. *Hooker, b. ii. f. 7.*

Neither must his example, done without the book, *preju-  
dice* that which is well appointed in the book. *Whitefield.*

I am not to *prejudice* the cause of my fellow-poets, though  
I abandon my own defence. *Dryden.*

3. To injure; to hurt; to diminish; to impair; to be detri-  
mental to. This sense, as in the noun, is often improperly  
extended to meanings that have no relation to the original  
sense; who can read with patience of an ingredient that *pre-  
judices* a medicine?

The strength of that law is such, that no particular nation  
can lawfully *prejudice* the same by any their several laws and  
ordinances, more than a man by his private resolutions, the  
law of the whole commonwealth wherein he liveth. *Hooker.*

The Danube secur'd, and the empire sav'd,  
Say, is the majesty of verse retriev'd?  
And would it *prejudice* thy softer vein,  
To sing the princes, Louis and Eugene? *Prior.*

To this is added a vinous bitter, warmer in the composition  
of its ingredients than the watry infusion; and, as gentian  
and lemon-peel make a bitter of so grateful a flavour, the  
only care required in this composition was to chuse such an ad-  
dition as might not *prejudice* it. *London Dispensatory.*

**PREJUDICIAL.** *adj.* [*prejudicialis*, Fr. from *prejudice*.]

1. Obstructive by means of opposite prepossessions.

2. Contrary; opposite.  
What one syllable is there, in all this, *prejudicial* any way  
to that which we hold? *Hooker, b. ii. f. 5.*

3. Mischievous; hurtful; injurious; detrimental. This sense  
is improper. See **PREJUDICE**, noun and verb.

His going away the next morning with all his troops, was  
most *prejudicial* and most ruinous to the king's affairs. *Claren.*

One of the young ladies reads, while the others are at  
work; so that the learning of the family is not at all *preju-  
dicial* to its manufactures. *Addison's Guardian.*

A state of great prosperity, as it exposes us to various  
temptations, so it is often *prejudicial* to us, in that it swells  
the mind with undue thoughts. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

**PREJUDICIALNESS.** *n. f.* [from *prejudicial*.] The state of being  
*prejudicial*; mischievousness.

**PRELACY.** *n. f.* [from *prælate*.]

1. The dignity or post of a prelate or ecclesiastick of the highest  
order.

*Prelates* may be termed the greater benefices; as that of  
the pontificate, a patriarchship, an archbishoprick and bishop-  
rick. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

2. Episcopacy; the order of bishops.

The presbyter, puff'd up with spiritual pride,  
Shall on the necks of the lewd nobles ride,  
His brethren damn, the civil power defy,  
And parcel out republick *prelacy*. *Dryden.*

How many are there, that call themselves protestants, who  
put *prelacy* and popery together as terms convertible. *Swift.*

3. Bishops. Collectively.

Divers of the reverend *prelacy*, and other most judicious  
men, have especially bestowed their pains about the matter of  
jurisdiction. *Hooker's Dedication.*

**PRELATE.** *n. f.* [*prælat*, Fr. *prælatus*, Lat.] An ecclesi-  
astick of the highest order and dignity.

It befemed not the person of so grave a *prelate*, to be ci-  
ther utterly without counsel, as the rest were, or in a common  
perplexity to shew himself alone secure. *Hooker.*

Hear him but reason in divinity,  
And, all-admiring, with an inward will  
You would desire the king were made a *prelate*. *Shakefp.*

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The archbishop of Vienna, a reverend *prelate*, said one  
day to king Lewis XI. of France; fir, your mortal enemy is  
dead, what time duke Charles of Burgundy was slain. *Bacon.*

Yet Munster's *prelate* ever be accus'd,  
In whom we seek the German faith in vain. *Dryden.*

**PRELATICAL.** *adj.* [from *prælate*.] Relating to prelate or  
prelacy. *Diët.*

**PRELATION.** *n. f.* [*prælatus*, Lat.] Preference; setting of  
one above the other.

In case the father left only daughters, they equally suc-  
ceeded as in co-partnership, without any *prelation* or preference  
of the eldest daughter to a double portion. *Hale.*

**PRELATURE.** *n. f.* [*prælatura*, Lat. *prelature*, Fr.] The

**PRELATURESHIP.** *n. f.* [state or dignity of a prelate. *Diët.*

**PRELECTION.** *n. f.* [*prælectio*, Lat.] Reading; lecture;  
discourse.

He that is desirous to prosecute these airy flights of infinitude,  
let him resort to the *prælections* of Faber. *Hale.*

**PRELIBATION.** *n. f.* [from *prælibo*, Lat.] Taste beforehand;  
effusion previous to tasting.

The firm belief of this, in an innocent soul, is a high  
*prælibation* of those eternal joys. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

**PRELIMINARY.** *adj.* [*præliminaire*, Fr. *prælimine*, Lat.] Pre-  
vious; introductory; proemial.

My master needed not the assistance of that *preliminary* poet  
to prove his claim; his own majestic mien discovers him to  
be the king. *Dryden.*

**PRELIMINARY.** *n. f.* Something previous; preparatory mea-  
sures.

The third consists of the ceremonies of the oath on both  
sides, and the *preliminaries* to the combat. *Notes on Ilia.*

**PRELUDE.** *n. f.* [*prælude*, Fr. *prælude*, Lat.]

1. Some short flight of music played before a full concert.

2. Something introductory; something that only shews what is  
to follow.

To his infant arms oppos'd  
His father's rebels and his brother's foes;  
Those were the *preludes* of his fate;  
That form'd his manhood, to subdue  
The hydra of the many-headed hilling crew. *Dryden.*

The last Georgick was a good *prelude* to the *Æneis*, and  
very well shewed what the poet could do in the description of  
what was really great. *Addison.*

One concession to a man is but a *prelude* to another.  
*Clarissa.*

**TO PRELUDE.** *v. a.* [*prælude*, Fr. *prælude*, Lat.] To serve  
as an introduction; to be previous to.

Either longer holding out their throats,  
And folding up their wings, renew'd their notes,  
As if all day, *preluding* to the fight,  
They only had rehears'd, to sing by night. *Dryden.*

**PRELUDEOUS.** *adj.* [from *prelude*.] Previous; introductory.

That's but a *preludeous* bliss,  
Two souls pickering in a kiss. *Cleaveland.*

**PRELUDIUM.** *n. f.* [Latin.] Prelude.

This Menelaus knows, expos'd to share  
With me the rough *preludium* of the war. *Dryden.*

**PRELUSIVE.** *adj.* [from *prelude*.] Previous; introductory;  
proemial.

The clouds  
Softly shaking on the dimpled pool  
*Prelusive* drops, let all their moisture flow. *Thomson.*

**PREMATURE.** *adj.* [*prematurus*, Fr. *præmaturus*, Lat.] Ripe  
too soon; formed before the time; too early; too soon said,  
believed, or done; too hasty.

'Tis hard to imagine, what possible consideration should  
persuade him to repent, 'till he deposited that *premature* per-  
suasion of his being in Christ. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*

**PREMATURELY.** *adj.* [from *premature*.] Too early; too  
soon; with too hasty ripeness.

**PREMATURENESS.** *n. f.* [from *premature*.] Too great haste;  
**PREMATURITY.** *n. f.* [from *premature*.] Unseasonable earliness.

**TO PREMEDITATE.** *v. a.* [*præmeditor*, Lat. *præmeditari*,  
Fr.] To contrive or form beforehand; to conceive before-  
hand.

Where I have come, great clerks have purpos'd  
To greet me with *præmeditated* welcomes. *Shakefp.*

With words *præmeditated* thus he said. *Dryden.*

**TO PREMEDITATE.** *v. n.* To have formed in the mind by  
previous meditation; to think beforehand.

Of themselves they were rude, and knew not so much as  
how to *præmeditate*; the spirit gave them speech and eloquent  
utterance. *Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity.*

**PREMEDITATION.** *n. f.* [*præmeditatio*, Lat. *præmeditation*, Fr.  
from *præmeditare*.] Act of meditating beforehand.

Are all th' unlook'd-for issue of their bodies  
To take their rooms ere I can place myself. *Shakefp.*

A cold *præmeditation* for my purpose?  
Hope is a pleasant *præmeditation* of enjoyment, as when a  
dog expects, till his master has done picking of the bone.  
*More's Antidote against Atheism.*